

the ROADRUNNER

Nebraska ♦ Department ♦ of ♦ Roads

June/July 2014



Travelers on N-61 south of Merriman are treated to the scenic beauty of the Sandhills, including Shell Leaf Penstemon blooming along the roadside.

Photo by Justin Meeks, District 8

Nebraska Department of Roads

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Highway Commission

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Administration

Roads Director	Randall D. Peters
Deputy Director	Moe Jamshidi
Deputy Director	Khalil Jaber

Divisions

Bridge	Mark Traynowicz
Business Technology Support	Bill Wehling
Communication	Mary Jo Oie
Construction	Claude Oie
Controller	Marilyn Hayes
Government Affairs	Andy Cunningham
Human Resources	Sue Larson
Legal Counsel	Jeff Schroeder
Materials & Research	Mick Syslo
Operations	Tom Sands
Planning & Project Development	Mike Owen
Program Management	Amy Starr
Rail & Public Transportation	Ryan Huff
Right-of-Way	Robert Frickel
Roadway Design	James Knott
Traffic Engineering	Dan Waddle

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District 1	Thomas Goodbarn
District 2	Timothy W. Weander
District 3	Kevin Domogalla
District 4	Wesley Wahlgren
District 5	Craig Lind
District 6	Gary Thayer
District 7	Kurt Vosburg
District 8	Mark Kovar

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The information in this newsletter is contributed by employees, retirees and friends of NDOR.



Employee Satisfaction at NDOR

By Jane Sutherland
Communication Division

Satisfied employees are loyal, motivated and are vital to a productive organization. The NDOR Employee Satisfaction Survey has been providing measurement of this important metric every three years since 1997. The survey was conducted most recently from January 2 to January 20, 2014. The 2014 survey asked employees to rate 28 statements designed to assess the work environment at NDOR.

The 2014 survey was distributed to 2,148 employees, with responses from 1,286, a 60% response rate, resulting in a $\pm 1.7\%$ margin of error. Results from the survey are used to provide performance measures that are reported in the 2013 NDOR Annual Report. These include the Employee Satisfaction Index (78%), Training Opportunity Index (77%) and Employee Awareness of NDOR Strategic Goals (84%).

The table on the next page displays the percent of positive responses (% strongly agree + % agree) for each survey statement for the past six Employee Satisfaction Surveys conducted by NDOR. This table reveals a trend of improvement in positive responses for all statements in the survey since 1999, with four exceptions:

- Results for "I know what is expected of me at work," have remained fairly steady over time, with 88% positive in 2014.
- "I look forward to coming to work" has also remained steady, with three fourths (76%) positive response in 2014.
- "The work I do is important," at 95% positive in 2014, is consistently the highest scoring statement in the survey.
- Although consistently a high scorer, "The work I do contributes to achieving the NDOR's mission" has experienced a decline over the years from 94% positive in 1999 to 91% positive in 2014. This trend is expected to reverse as information is distributed regarding NDOR's revised mission statement and strategic goals.

Improvement in the percent of positive responses for the last two surveys, 2011 and 2014 are shown in red in the table. These significant improvements are:

- My physical work environment is satisfactory (89% positive in 2014).
- I regularly receive feedback about my job performance (66% positive in 2014).
- Most of the time, I find my work to be satisfying and rewarding (82% positive in 2014).
- At work, my opinions seem to count (65% positive in 2014).
- I would recommend the NDOR to family and friends as a good place to work (76% positive in 2014).

While the combined division results show consistent results between 2011 and 2014, the districts overall (not shown in table) experienced significant improvement between 2011 and 2014 in the following eight statements:

- I receive recognition or praise for good work (66% positive in 2014, 60% positive in 2011).
- Management communicates with openness and honesty (60% positive in 2014, 52% positive in 2011).
- I regularly receive feedback about my job performance (68% positive in 2014, 58% positive in 2011).
- I receive information on a timely basis to do my job (71% positive in 2014, 64% positive in 2011).
- I am provided opportunities to improve my job skills (75% positive in 2014, 70% positive in 2011).
- At work, I have the opportunity to do what I do best every day (75% positive in 2014, 69% positive in 2011).
- Most of the time, I find my work to be satisfying and rewarding (82% positive in 2014, 78% positive in 2011).
- At work, my opinions seem to count (63% positive in 2014, 55% positive in 2011).

Employees can contact their division manager or district engineer for results of the Employee Satisfaction Survey for their division or district. ♦

Employee Satisfaction Survey Results 1999-2014
% Satisfied (Agree/Strongly Agree)

Attribute	1999	2002	2005	2008	2011	2014	% Difference from 2011
I have the materials and equipment to do my job right.	75%	80%	82%	85%	85%	87%	2%
My physical work environment is satisfactory.	81%	85%	88%	88%	86%	89%	3%
I feel safe in doing my job.	85%	88%	90%	90%	89%	89%	0%
I am satisfied with my supervisor's overall skill and ability.	73%	72%	78%	78%	80%	81%	1%
I receive sufficient training to do my job effectively.	68%	69%	76%	79%	79%	79%	0%
I receive recognition or praise for good work.	53%	54%	64%	68%	65%	68%	3%
Management communicates with openness and honesty.					57%	60%	3%
Management is interested in offering support and challenges to the employee to help them achieve their full potential.						62%	n/a
I receive the information I need to do my job.	72%	71%	76%	79%	78%	80%	2%
I regularly receive feedback about my job performance.	42%	45%	58%	62%	60%	66%	6%
I know what is expected of me at work.	86%	85%	89%	87%	87%	88%	1%
I have sufficient access to information via the Department's computer system.	79%	84%	87%	87%	89%	91%	2%
Information is freely shared within my division or district.	49%	46%	50%	54%	56%	54%	-2%
I receive information on a timely basis to do my job.	58%	58%	65%	71%	67%	70%	3%
Overall, I am satisfied with communication at NDOR.						63%	n/a
I look forward to coming to work.	74%	72%	79%	78%	73%	76%	3%
I am provided opportunities to improve my job skills.	67%	69%	76%	78%	74%	75%	1%
At work, I have the opportunity to do what I do best every day.	66%	66%	70%	70%	73%	76%	3%
The work I do is important.	96%	95%	96%	97%	95%	95%	0%
Most of the time, I find my work to be satisfying and rewarding.	77%	80%	80%	82%	80%	82%	2%
At work, my opinions seem to count.	60%	60%	61%	62%	61%	65%	4%
The work I do contributes to achieving the NDOR's mission.	94%	93%	94%	94%	92%	91%	-1%
Within my division/district, we strive for continuous improvement.	72%	70%	77%	77%	78%	78%	0%
I would recommend the NDOR to family and friends as a good place to work.				72%	71%	76%	5%
I am a satisfied employee of the NDOR.	62%	64%	74%	72%	73%	76%	3%
I have been informed of NDOR's 8 Strategic Goals.						88%	n/a
I know how to locate information about NDOR's 8 Strategic Goals.						80%	n/a
I recognize how my work helps NDOR make progress towards any or all of our 8 Strategic Goals.						82%	n/a
Total Survey Average	69%	69%	75%	76%	73%	77%	4%
Total NDOR Employee Survey Respondents	1,186	1,053	1,365	1,492	1,517	1,286	-233
Response Rate	52%	48%	63%	71%	70%	60%	-10%

It's All About Maintenance

By Denise Wallman
Operations Division

NDOR district maintenance personnel gathered in Kearney April 29 – May 1 for several events including a Winter Operations–Strategic Planning meeting, a Joint Agency meeting with Nebraska State Patrol, and the Operations & Maintenance Conference. The 2014 conference was co-hosted by Operations Division and District 6. Moe Jamshidi, Deputy Director-Operations, opened the conference by thanking everyone for the jobs they do every day. Maintenance activities, equipment, materials and new technology dominated the focus of agenda topics. Information presented during break-out sessions ranged from RWIS technology to HR updates, panel discussions on fuel tank inspections to reporting weather-related highway conditions and events.

Total attendees numbered 225, including 80 exhibitors that staffed their product booths during the conference. Dr. Jamie Williams, UNL Associate Athletic Director, former Husker and NFL football player, was the keynote speaker. He described how life in the world of road maintenance is like football. Using small group dynamics, we deal with chaos and uncertainty by “huddling up” and figuring out what to do, then doing it.

Matt Neemann, Traffic Control Engineer, was honored with the District Maintenance Appreciation



Photos by Pam Garrett, District 6

Craig Slack, Maintenance Supervisor, Ansley, and others look on as Deputy Director-Operations Moe Jamshidi mixes emulsion into dirt, sand and clay to make cold mix patching material.

Award. The District Operations and Maintenance managers presented the award and shared that Matt is always quick to respond to problems and questions. He looks for innovative answers and offers great support to the field offices; he is a team player who listens to concerns and does his best to help find a solution. ♦



Front row, l to r: Corvin Hinrichs - D8, Dale Butler-D2, Matt Neemann - Traffic Engineering, Ray Branstiter - D3, Chris Ford - D5, Kelly Doyle - D7, Roger Kalkwarf - D1. **Back row:** Allen Horak-D4, Roger Klasna-D6.

Trash-Off Volunteers Brave the Elements to Clean Roadsides

By Denise Wallman
Operations Division

Hold on to your hats! Mother Nature delivered harsh winds and cold temperatures on most days of this year's Trash-Off, held April 1-30. Despite adverse conditions, 4,636 volunteers braved the elements and picked up litter on their adopted area. They cleaned over 788 roadside lane miles and filled 2,359 orange trash bags with all sorts of stuff. Whether it's big and bulky or small and smelly, all kinds of items seem to find their way into the ditches. One volunteer found a marriage certificate (wouldn't you like to hear that story); another group picked up 25 empty cigarettes packages in a 1-mile stretch; one group filled three trash bags with the aluminum cans they found and donated the money from selling them to the American Cancer Society.

In its 24th year, the Adopt-a-Highway litter pickup program is successfully sponsored by the Nebraska Department of Roads. Currently there are 920 groups within the state that have made a commitment to keep Nebraska roadsides clean and litter-free. ♦



Members of the Boots N Spurs 4 H Horse Club, Lexington, take pride in cleaning their adopted area along Highway 30.



Highway 11, mileposts 13-15, stays clean and litter-free thanks to members of Wood River United Methodist Youth Fellowship.

Right - Some of the items found along Highway 22 by volunteers from the Columbus Masonic Center can't be stuffed into a trash bag.

Photos provided by Adopt-a-Highway groups



NDOR Employees' Efforts Reap Success for Food Bank Drive

NDOR employees continued their tradition of generosity and creativity as they united in giving to the annual state employee Food Bank Drive.

The Food Bank Drive was held April 7-18, with contributions totaling \$17,672.24 in cash, along with food and household items. While \$274 short of last year's total, the amount was among the top three ever collected by NDOR employees during their years of contributions to the drive.

According to Alex Shada, Public Relations Director at the Lincoln Food Bank, this year's donations will allow them to purchase \$106,033.44 in food with their suppliers (each \$1 cash donation buys \$6 of goods) and distribute over 47,500 meals to children, families and seniors throughout Southeast Nebraska. Shada noted that there are 46,780 food insecure individuals throughout Southeast Nebraska, and 19,810 of them are children.

Although coordinators from each division helped with Food Drive activities, including collections of donations and displays of donated items during the two-week effort, unlike past years, there was not a competition between the divisions and point totals were not accumulated for each employee for their giving. However, this did not put a damper on creative efforts; if anything, they were even greater than past years as everyone came together to celebrate the joy of giving to their Nebraska neighbors in need.

While food sales were a major draw again this year among the divisions, with four breakfasts, ten lunches,



Photos by Jay Bailey

NDOR Director Randy Peters presents a "check" for \$17,672.24 on behalf of Department of Roads employees to Lincoln Food Bank Public Relations Director Alex Shada and Operations Director Mariana Schell.

two bake sales, root beer floats and concession stands, other activities abounded as well. In addition to the traditional egg toss, raffles, rummage sales and "change fairies," new items and activities included a "cutie pie" photo contest, sales of homemade "foo-doo" dolls, and a carnival - complete with games, prizes, a photo booth, and, of course, food - a big hit with NDOR employees and their children.

Another new activity this year, the "Chicken Dance," was a huge success. Employees cast their monetary votes in one of the buckets labeled with the name of their "favorite" from the Director's Office - Director Randy Peters; Deputy Director-Operations, Moe Jamshidi; or Deputy Director-Engineering, Khalil Jaber - with the winner performing the dance during the Food Drive Wrap-Up Event. The winner, Moe Jamshidi, delighted the crowd of NDOR employees with his entertaining dance moves, while several "volunteers" joined him on stage.

During the wrap-up, the cash donation of \$17, 672.24 was presented by NDOR Director Randy Peters to Food Bank representatives Shada and Mariana Schell, Director of Operations, who accepted the donation on behalf of the Food Bank and thanked NDOR employees for their continued generosity.

Food Drive Coordinator, Heather Kowalski of Roadway Design, thanked everyone who helped. She presented special awards, including the top food drive coordinators: Jacqueline Schrotberger - Right-of-Way; Trish Sanchez - Business Technology Support; Donna Hosick, Traffic; and

(see **Food Drive** on next page)



During the Food Drive Wrap-Up, Deputy Director Moe Jamshidi showed his dance moves along with Verneda Kelly, Crispin Mayers, Mary Jo Oie and Jack Rosecrans.

Food Drive *(cont'd. from page 6)*

Denise Sears, Human Resources. The "Smiles" award was presented to Jack Rosecrans, Communication. The "Fantastic Food" award went to Traffic for their sloppy joe's, which raised \$592. Planning & Project Development won the "Radical Raffle" award for their gift cards to South Pointe Mall in Lincoln, which raised \$595. Operations won the "Awesome Auction" award for their donated Tandem Sky Drive, which raised \$210. ♦

Food Bank Drive Coordinators

Bridge - Janelle Carnahan
Business Technology Systems - Trish Sanchez
Communication - Mary Neben & Jack Rosecrans
Construction - Lucinda Dowding, Jamie Kamarad & Heather Silver
Controller - Susan Wurster
Director's Office - Verneda Kelly
Human Resources - Denise Sears
Legal - JoAnn Kroll
Local Projects - Jane Brubaker
M & R - Kristina Johnson
Operations - Diane Smejdir
Planning & Project Development - Sandra Knippelmeyer, Linda Langdale & Renee Chorowicz
Program Management - Mike Beattie
Rail & Public Trans. - Bev Vonasek
ROW - Jacqueline Schrotberger
Roadway Design - Heather Kowalski
Traffic Engineering - Donna Hosick
District 1 - Teresa Vanover
District 3 - Rodney Weber
District 4 - Lauren Swiatoviak
District 5 - Cindy Vergil
District 8 - Erin Allen



Top - Jack Rosecrans, Communication Food Drive Coordinator, assists a participant in one of the carnival games during NDOR's Food Drive.



Left - Somara, one of NDOR's Food Drive "change fairies," collects change from NDOR employees and places it in the wishing well.

Lower right - April 9 was a great day to toss an egg for the Lincoln Food Bank! Out of 14 teams scrambling for bragging rights, teammates, Ron Coulter and Tom Foss, Roadway Design, were the NDOR Egg Toss Champions of 2014.

Lower left - NDOR employees eagerly wait in line for their turn to enjoy sloppy joe's prepared by Right-of-Way Division.

Photos by Jay Bailey



As Bridge Inspections Change, Safety Remains Top Priority

Bridges are a major component of Nebraska's transportation infrastructure. With 15,500 bridges in Nebraska—3,500 owned by the state and 12,000 owned by local entities—safe, well-maintained bridges are crucial for the mobility of the traveling public. It is a responsibility taken very seriously by the Nebraska Department of Roads' Bridge Division management and employees, including the bridge inspectors who are out year-round making sure the bridges meet federal safety standards. Recent major changes in how these inspections shall be conducted and how the bridge inspection information should be collected, using a new web-based bridge inspection database, will reap benefits for the future of bridge maintenance in the state.

While NDOR's Bridge Division, In-Service Bridge Section, is responsible directly for the inspection, load rating, inventory and record-keeping of the 3,500 state-owned bridges, they are ultimately responsible for the safety of all 15,500 bridges in the state through federal regulations known as the National Bridge Inspection Standards (NBIS). These regulations set the standard for the safety inspection and evaluation of highway bridges located on all public roads. A major goal is to be in compliance with the regulations of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

In accordance with requirements of the NBIS, state bridge inspections and load ratings are managed by Wayne Patras, Bridge

Inspection and Load Rating Engineer, and Roe Enchayan, Bridge Inspection Engineer; inventory and record-keeping are managed by Steve Andersen and Jeff Handeland from the Bridge Inventory and Data Section. Babrak Niazi, as the NBIS Program Manager, has the responsibility of overseeing all the NBIS efforts toward keeping in-service bridges in Nebraska safe.

Patras oversees the scheduling of state bridge inspection staff, which includes six dedicated full-time employees. As needed, Patras also assists part-time with emergencies and special inspections, and Roe Enchayan assists part-time with initial inspections and special inspections, as well as managing the scheduling of consulting firms who provide specialized inspection services on both the state and local road systems. These services include underwater bridge inspections and fracture critical bridge inspections.

Six types of bridge inspections are conducted: initial, routine, fracture critical, underwater, special and damage. The initial inspection is required for new bridges, replacement bridges, rehabilitated bridges, or bridges with a change in ownership.

Every Two Years

Bridge inspections are scheduled at least once every 24 months. Bridge inspection involves observations and/or measurements needed to determine the physical and functional condition of the bridge, to identify any changes from initial or previously recorded conditions, and to ensure that the structure continues to satisfy present service requirements.

Fracture critical bridges are made of steel and have some members that are under tension. If one of those tension members fails, the entire bridge is subject to collapse. There are 1,100 fracture critical state- and local-owned bridges in the state. The fracture critical inspection is a hands-on

(see Bridge Inspections on next page)



Photo by Jay Bailey

Bridge Division inspection team members, pictured, l to r: Babrak Niazi, NBIS Program Manager, Pat Holley, Mike Mosiman, Shannon Erdman, Paul Earnest, Rod Wroblewski, Kelley Green, Seth Brashears, Wayne Patras, Bridge Inspection and Load Rating Engineer; and Jeff Handeland, Bridge Inventory and Data Engineer.

Bridge Inspections *(cont'd. from page 8)*

(within arms reach) inspection that may include visual and other nondestructive evaluation.

Underwater inspections are performed on 200 state- and local-owned bridges at least every 60 months. These are required for bridges with substructure units that are submerged in water depths greater than 4 feet throughout the year. Patras noted that, while these inspections used to be done in-house, they have been performed by consultants over the past several years. In addition to state-owned bridges, NDOR contracts with consultants for both underwater and fracture critical bridge inspections for local entities, which are paid for with federal and local money.

Special inspections are used to monitor a particular known or suspected bridge deficiency and are conducted periodically as a follow-up to the routine inspections. Damage inspections are generally precipitated by an emergency; these are unscheduled inspections to assess structural damage resulting from environmental factors or human actions.

Three Categories

All bridges fall within three categories in the inventory: adequate, obsolete and structurally deficient. A bridge is adequate if it meets its load carrying capacity and each of the main features of the bridge are at least in fair condition. A bridge is functionally obsolete if nothing is structurally wrong with it, but it's not capable of carrying the kinds of traffic that are out there because of its size, for example, the bridge is too narrow. A structurally deficient bridge isn't unsafe, but its carrying capacity could be diminished to the point where restrictions have to be set on how heavy a load is permitted across the bridge. If a bridge inspector locates an area of concern that requires immediate follow-up inspection or action, they will write a "critical finding" and close the bridge immediately.

The information obtained from the bridge inspections is also used

as input into load ratings, which are used to determine the load carrying capacity of the bridge. Babrak Niazi, NBIS Program Manager, directs these activities. This information is also used by NDOR's Motor Carrier Permits Section in the process of permitting oversize and overweight trucks on the system.

Steve Andersen, Bridge Inventory Data Manager, is responsible for the Bridge Inventory and Data Section. He oversees processing the information provided from all bridge inspections and load ratings and ensuring that it is correctly entered into a Bridge Management software application. Andersen noted, "My most interesting activity is to communicate and coordinate with the over 100 local agencies in Nebraska that own bridges. As our technology continues to move ahead, working with a diverse level of technological expertise in the field is very challenging."

Major Changes

Significant changes recently have been made to the way both national highway system bridge inspections and state-owned bridge inspections are conducted and how the data is recorded. "Elemental inspections," mandated by federal law, were started on April 1, according to Patras. While the old system gave the overall condition of different components of a bridge, including the deck, girders, bridge rail, etc., these components are now inspected with specific quantities of measurements. For example decks are inspected by square feet; girders, whether steel or concrete, are measured by linear feet. Anticipated benefits of elemental bridge inspections include more uniform condition assessment of bridge elements and easier use of data in determining bridge preservation needs.

During this same time period, a new software program, Bridge Management AASHTOWare (BrM) was implemented for recording information on the bridges into a database. It is a web-based program, which allows information to be collected and forwarded to the NDOR central headquarters in real time; prior to this, the data

had to be stored then modified and uploaded when the inspectors came in from the field.

"This web-based feature is a major improvement; it allows the inspectors to save information and send it back to us right away. This is a big advantage for us," Niazi noted, adding, "Nebraska is one of the top very few states which achieved the 'compliance or substantial compliance' status with NBIS requirements."

Andersen added, "While we aren't the first state to do this, we are one of just a few states to take this new software program, get it ready to go, and to implement it."

Long-Term Benefits

The responsibility of NDOR's Bridge Division for the inspection, load rating, inventory and record-keeping of the 3,500 state-owned bridges, as well as ultimate responsibility for the safety of all 15,500 bridges in the state through the National Bridge Inspection Standards (NBIS), dovetails with NDOR's streamlined mission statement which states, "We provide the best possible statewide transportation system for the movement of people and goods." The division's work also ties in with NDOR's strategic goals, particularly the following four: 1) safety; 2) asset management; 3) mobility; and 4) communication, coordination, collaboration and cooperation.

In summarizing their importance, Niazi noted, "The safety of the state's bridges is the reason we do what we do; it is our number one priority, not only for our employees but for the traveling public. With safety at the forefront, we work together to manage our state's 3,500 bridges, to use the best technology available to assess our assets, and to maintain them to ensure continued mobility for motorists. Our recent change with the new software and inspection methods has required a tremendous amount of communication, coordination, collaboration and cooperation to move us forward into the future. It is an effort that should reap many benefits for us in the long run." ♦

ECODatabase Merit Award to NDOR's Ron Poe

Ron Poe, NDOR Environmental Program Manager, recently accepted a Merit Award, on behalf of the department, from the American Council of Engineering Companies of Nebraska (ACEC), for an innovative environmental inspection software application, NDOR ECODatabase System. The program is designed to track environmental commitments during construction, with the ability to query data from inspection reports and to automatically send electronic reports, eliminating the need for submittal of paper copies.

The software application was developed over a period of four years and supports broad environmental compliance requirements of the department. Originally designed to manage NDOR's statewide stormwater compliance requirements, the ECODatabase has grown into a full Environmental Management System (EMS) support application. This has allowed all environmental permits and commitments associated with state and local projects to be addressed in one place. It now supports the preparation and submittal of thousands of construction site inspections annually.

The transition from paper inspections has allowed NDOR to learn from individual and collective inspection data that is stored within the environmental compliance oversight database. The emergence of this new data now creates a wealth of information for NDOR and the ability to gain knowledge for measuring environmental stewardship against quantitative performance measures.

The program was originally



Photo by Nancy Burdine, Communication Division

Ron Poe, NDOR Environmental Program Manager (right), accepts an ACEC Merit Award for the NDOR ECODatabase System from Jesse Poore, Environmental Planner at Felsburg, Holt & Ullevig (FHU), the consulting firm that helped build the electronic environmental software inspection program.

developed by the Colorado DOT, and expanded to meet the needs of Nebraska. Jesse Poore, a consultant at Felsburg, Holt & Ullevig (FHU) helped build the NDOR ECODatabase.

"We've been using this program for about three years, starting with our district environmental coordinators and my staff for oversight inspections. Now, it is used by all project managers who are doing their environmental inspections on the system, with more than 200 system users throughout Nebraska," Poe noted.

Another plus, according to Poe, are the built-in features where the reports are automatically mailed to a distribution list so the inspections

are instantly received. This allows the project managers to get to work right away on resolving any issues on the project and also allows management to tailor training to specific areas.

"This saves us a tremendous amount of time and it makes our reports more useable. Prior to this we had stacks of paper inspection reports; now we are able to build reports to query data and if specific issues arise in certain parts of the state we can provide training on how to improve their documentation. By just looking at the reports we can see the issues they are having and better use our time to get them the information that they need." ♦

Lind Receives Gering Tourism's Top Award

The Gering Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) presented its 2014 "Community Volunteer Buddy" Award to long-time NDOR District 5 Engineer Craig Lind on May 8 during the Visitors Bureau's annual meeting and tourism reception at the Gering Civic Center. The award recognizes tourism stakeholders who go above and beyond the call of duty to promote Gering and the area as a destination.

"There hasn't been a tourism discussion anytime that Craig's name wasn't a prominent part of the conversation; for his expertise, guidance and commitment of service to tourism in all aspects of signage," stated Gering CVB Executive Director Karla Niedan-Streeks. "Craig and the Nebraska Department of Roads rarely get the recognition they deserve; signage is the most important tool we have that affects each and every visitor to Gering."

District 5 Highway Commissioner Doug Leafgreen said, "Lind is a 'can do' person who found a way to bring people together on the location for the Kimball Bypass. He also got approval on key signage for Gering on I-80 and the Heartland Expressway, and was able to get directional signs installed to the new Kimball Visitors Center."

Nidan-Streeks applauded Craig as a true friend of tourism, noting, "He works closely with the Gering CVB and area tourism partners to find the ways to make signage work for our destinations; not necessarily with everything in signage we want but he finds ways to give our industry everything we need." ♦



Photo by Brad Staman, Gering Courier
NDOR District 5 Engineer Craig Lind accepts the 2014 "Community Volunteer Buddy" Award from Gering Convention and Visitors Bureau Executive Director Karla Niedan-Streeks.

Service Awards

Congratulations to these dedicated individuals for their work and continued service with the Department of Roads. They celebrate their service dates in *June and July 2014*.

50 Years

Marvin Lech, District 2

40 Years

David Brokaw, Materials & Research

Henry Kral, District 4

Warren Racely, District 3

30 Years

Matthew Boone, District 2

Karl Burns, District 2

Todd Cecrle, District 1

Terry Einspahr, District 7

Lori Ellison, Planning & Proj. Dev.

Brent Greever, Right-of-Way

Barry Hergenrader, District 1

Agnes Masek, Construction

Robert Rutt, Operations

Dean Schwartz, District 3

Ron Slepicka, Roadway Design

Phillip Sloup, Roadway Design

David Watkins, Construction

20 Years

Terry Holman, Bridge

Eileen O'Keefe, Right-of-Way

Franklin Piper, District 5

Andre Sahele, Right-of-Way

Mick Syslo, Materials & Research

10 Years

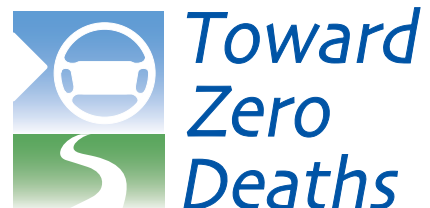
Seth Brashears, Bridge

Maryanne Jacobs, District 5

Dwayne Kobza, District 4

Mark Reinsch, District 4

Sonny Scott, District 6



Are You a DOR-OI Explorer?

Have you ever wondered where you can find the latest forms for department travel? Perhaps you need to know the most current policies regarding training. Or, maybe you are looking for instructions on how to order supplies. Answers to all these questions, and many more, are at your fingertips by accessing NDOR's Operating Instructions, or DOR-OI's, located on the InTRANet Directory on NDOR's website.

For employees who haven't discovered this information gem, it may offer another facet in your search for answers to a variety of NDOR policy questions. Just as "Dora the Explorer,"—the popular children's television character—found solutions to puzzles and riddles on a quest to reach her destination, exploring the DOR-OIs could uncover hidden nuggets of information to solve work-related conundrums. Utilizing this tool may even result in savings of valuable time and resources.

By accessing the DOR-OIs, you will find official answers to questions

regarding department policy on subjects not covered by other directives within divisions and districts. In addition, all DOR-OIs either have department-wide significance, or at a minimum, apply to three or more divisions/districts. For example, within the category of "Communication," the "Communication Services" section offers information helpful to all employees regarding reproductions, copyrights, color copies, nameplates, name tags, calling cards, photo I.D. cards, graphics, electronic standard forms and more.

Another advantage: there's no need to worry about whether you have the latest forms, as these are periodically reviewed and updated so that the most current information is easily accessible. The Audit Section of the Controller Division manages requests to update and publish the DOR-OI's and the Communication Division's Information Processing Center places these items on the NDOR Intranet at http://www.transportation.nebraska.gov/intranet/dor_oi/oi_toc.htm, using the ID and password for the Intranet.

The numbering system for the 13 DOR-OI categories (see sidebar for complete list) is based on general subjects. For example, the category name "Travel, Vehicle and Aircraft Use; Expenses Related to NDOR Sponsored Events," is numbered "20" and has two sections, including "Travel" and "Vehicle and Aircraft Use." These sections contain pertinent information on the topics. For additional, helpful information about the DOR-OIs, check out the first category "00 – Operating Instructions."

The next time you are on a quest to navigate the labyrinth of department policy questions for the most accurate information and want to do it more efficiently, get out there and explore the DOR-OI's! ♦

DOR-OI Categories

- 00 - Operating Instructions
- 05 - Legislative
- 10 - Communication
- 15 - Discipline, Dues, History, Rules
- 20 - Travel, Vehicle & Aircraft Use; Expenses Related to NDOR Sponsored Events
- 30 - Archives, Central Files
- 45 - Agreements, Audits, Contracts, Financial, Railroads, Utilities
- 50 - Data Processing
- 55 - Legal, Theft, Vandalism
- 60 - Corridors, Engineering, Planning, Research, Right-of-Way
- 70 - Central Headquarters
- 80 - Capital Facilities, Purchasing, Supply
- 90 - Training & Development



Memorial Day Tribute

Listed below are NDOR employees who passed away between May 28, 2013 and May 27, 2014.

District 5:

Patricia K. Dunkin,
Hwy. Maintenance Supervisor
at Kimball – August 16, 2013

Traffic Engineering:

Joyce A. Bennett,
Office Clerk II at Lincoln –
September 16, 2013

Operations:

William H. Francisco,
Electronics Design Specialist
at Lincoln – December 7, 2013



***Don't Magnify
Your Risk
of an Accident***

***Pay Attention
in Work Zones!***

All in the Family

Information for "All in the Family" should be sent to the Communication Division. Appropriate information will be included in future Roadrunners.

Please note: Birth announcements will be published as long as written permission is received by the Communication Division. This is necessary, as NDOR is required to adhere to privacy laws under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).

Births

Congratulations to Todd and Brenda Wicken on the birth of their granddaughter, Emma Kay, born March 21. Todd is the Hwy. Property Management Supervisor in Right-of-Way.

Congratulations to Josh and Katie Weber on the birth of their first child, Thomas, born March 6. Josh is the son of Tom and Jo Weber. Tom is a Right-of-Way Agent II.

Congratulations to Bob and Alice Frickel on the birth of their third grandchild, Scarlet, born May 29. Bob is the Right-of-Way Division Head.

Congratulations to Chris and Brooke Neesen on the birth of their daughter, Brynlee Annabelle, born May 31. Chris is a Hwy. Right-of-Way Designer III.

Congratulations to Sandy and Elden Forsgren on the birth of their second grandson, Archer Owen, born March 24. Sandy is the IT Business Systems Analyst for Operations. Elden's father C.J. is a Construction Tech II at the District 1 Fairbury shop.

Congratulations to Roxann Miller on the birth of her grandson, Colin James, born April 15. Roxann is a Staff Assistant at District 2 in Elkhorn.

Congratulations to Carrie Haynie on the birth of her daughter, Vivian Lorraine, born March 24. Carrie is a Staff Assistant I at District 6 in Lexington.

Congratulations to Brook and Katy Rowan on the birth of their daughter, Lauren Marie, born April 17. Katy is the daughter of Dan Ziska, Project Manager at District 8 in O'Neill.

Condolences

Condolences to Greg Heinzmann and his family on the passing of his grandmother. Greg is an Appraiser III in Right-of-Way.

Condolences to Dallas Pears and family on the death of his father. Dallas is a Hwy. Maintenance Worker, Sr. in Materials & Research.

Condolences to Joy Mullendore on the passing of her brother. Joy is the Business Application Support Coordinator for Operations.

Condolences to Doug Sittler on the loss of his father. Doug is an Accounting Clerk in Operations.

Condolences to Tania Freeman on the loss of her husband. Tania is a Staff Assistant I at District 6 in Ogallala.

Condolences to Dennis Connot on the loss of his father-in-law. Dennis is a Hwy. Maintenance Superintendent at District 8 in Valentine.

Weddings

Congratulations on the June 11 marriage of Kevin Brown and Alexis Rea. Kevin is a Student Work-Study Program employee in Roadway Design.

Betty Schneider, File Clerk III in ROW is happy to announce the engagement of her granddaughter, Melissa Brady to Hans Harnisch. They will be married June 27, 2015 in Lincoln.

Congratulations to Ernest Rodriguez on his marriage to Jennie Ehlers on April 18. Ernest is a Hwy. Maintenance Worker at District 6 in Gothenburg.

This 'n That

Congratulations to Mike Mitchell on his retirement after 12 years of service at NDOR, 39 years total state service. Mike was a Personnel Manager I in Human Resources.

Congratulations to Mary Neben on her retirement after 10 years of service. Mary was the Media Center Librarian in Communication.

Congratulations to Doug Prochazka on his retirement after almost 54 years of service. Doug was the Hwy. Contracts Supervisor in Construction.

Congratulations to Dave Schluckebier on his retirement after 44 years of service. Dave was a Hwy. Contracts Project Coordinator in Construction.

Congratulations to John Schulte on his retirement after 43 years of service. John was a Senior Auditor in Controller.

Congratulations to Mark Bamesberger on his retirement after 40 years of service. Mark was Hwy. Materials & Tests Manager in Materials & Research.

Congratulations to Katherine 'Kate' Anderson on her retirement after 39 years of service. Kate was a Highway Cartographer Sr. in Materials & Research.

Congratulations to Al Enyeart on his retirement after 15 years of service. Al was a Hwy. Maintenance Worker Sr. at District 6 in Lexington.

Congratulations to Roger Ripley on his retirement after 43 years of service. Roger was the Chief Negotiator/Relocation Supervisor in Right-of-Way. Right-of-Way congratulates Greg Weinert on his promotion to Chief Negotiator/Relocation Supervisor.

Right-of-Way wishes Todd Muehlich the best of luck on his new adventures. Todd took a position with HDR after 31 years of service with NDOR.

Congratulations to Skye Kowalski for being a contestant in the 2014 Miss Pre-Teen Nebraska Pageant. Skye is 11 years old and a 6th grader at Dawes Middle School. Her parents are Joe and Heather Kowalski. Heather is a Staff Assistant I in Roadway Design.

Congratulations to Dillon Byre, who recently completed a 8-0 season playing for the Lincoln YMCA Flag Football Giants. Dillon is the son of Dale Byre, Jr., Quality Assurance Manager in Materials & Research.

Congratulations to Lacie Dougherty on her graduation from Doane College with a Bachelor's degree in Human Relations. Lacie is the daughter of Cherie Dougherty, Right-of-Way Agent II.

Private First Class Kyle Schuelke graduated from the U.S. Marine Corp on March 7 at Camp Pendleton, CA. He is now attending Assault Amphibian School at Delmar Marine Corp Base, training to repair and recover amphibious assault vehicles. Kyle is the grandson of Johnny and Sandy Schuelke. Sandy is an Administrative Assistant in Roadway Design.

Congratulations to Andrew (Andy) Butler who graduated from Hastings College on May 17. Andy is the son of Ilene Butler, Staff Assistant at District 4 in Hastings.

Collin Meints graduated from Wymore Southern High School on May 17. Collin was elected Homecoming King and received a citizenship honor for his caring for and helping others at school and in the community. He is a member of the Wymore Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department and would like to pursue a career in Law Enforcement. Collin is the son of Mark and Tammy Meints. Mark is the Hwy. Emergency Program Specialist in Operations.

Wyconda Walstrom graduated from UNL in May with a Bachelor of Veterinary Science degree in the University Honors Program. She will be a wrangler in Yellowstone National Park this summer. Wyconda is the daughter of Mike Mattison and Julie Walstrom. Mike is an Engineer in Operations.

Cryssa Sittler graduated from UNL with a Bachelor of Arts degree. Cryssa is the daughter of Doug Sittler, Accounting Clerk in Operations.

NDOR Events Calendar

— June —

National Safety Month

www.nsc.org/Pages/JuneisNationalSafetyMonth.aspx

5/30 – 6/8

Nebraska Wildflower Week

<http://arboretum.unl.edu/wildflower-week>

7 National Trails Day

www.americanhiking.org/national-trails-day

10 Blood Drive – Community Blood Bank

NDOR Central Headquarters

Contact Diane Holthus @ 402-479-4580

11 RoadToasters

12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.

Contact Glenn Williams @ 402-479-3628

20 Bd. Public Roads Class. & Stds.

9:00 a.m., NDOR Auditorium

Contact LeMoyne Schulz @ 402-479-4436

25 RoadToasters

12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.

Contact Glenn Williams @ 402-479-3628

26 Letting

1:30 p.m., NDOR Auditorium

Contact Kendall Stege @ 402-479-4528

27 Hwy. Commission Mtg./Dist. 5 Program Hearing

8:30 a.m., Sidney Holiday Inn

664 Chase Blvd., Sidney, NE

Contact Sarah Kugler @ 402-479-4871

— July —

1 New Employee Orientation Program

Rm. 152, 5001 S. 14th (the "Hill")

Contact Denice Sears @ 402-479-3656

4 State Holiday – Independence Day

9 RoadToasters

12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.

Contact Glenn Williams @ 402-479-3628

18 Bd. Public Roads Class & Stds.

9:00 a.m., NDOR Auditorium

Contact LeMoyne Schulz @ 402-479-4436

23 RoadToasters

12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.

Contact Glenn Williams @ 402-479-3628

31 Letting

1:30 p.m., NDOR Auditorium

Contact Kendall Stege @ 402-479-4528

— August —

3 - 9 National Stop on Red Week

<http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/intersection/redlight/outreach/>

6 Blood Drive – Community Blood Bank

NDOR Central Headquarters

Contact Diane Holthus @ 402-479-4580

13 RoadToasters

12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.

Contact Glenn Williams @ 402-479-3628

8/15 – 9/1 Impaired Driving Nat'l Enforcement Crackdown

<http://www.nhtsa.gov/Impaired>

22 Hwy. Commission Mtg./Dist. 4 Program Hearing

8:30 a.m., Hastings City Council Chambers

220 N. Hastings Ave., Hastings, NE

Contact Sarah Kugler @ 402-479-4871

22 Bd. Examiners for Co. Hwy. & City Street Supts.

10:00 a.m., NDOR Materials & Research Conference Rm.

Contact LeMoyne Schulz @ 402-479-4436

27 RoadToasters

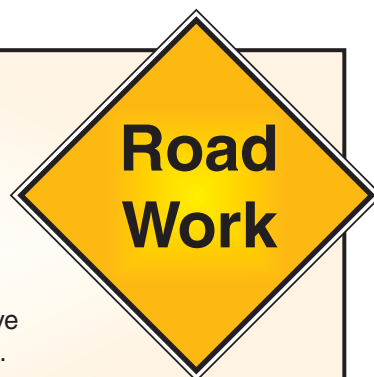
12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.

Contact Glenn Williams @ 402-479-3628

If you would like a key event included on upcoming calendars, call the Communication Office 479-4512 or e-mail linda.wilson@nebraska.gov. Information for the August/September Roadrunner should be received by July 31, 2014.

***This Diamond
is a Worker's
Best Friend***

During this construction season,
please be extra careful and attentive
when approaching roadwork zones.



Please Drive Smart in Highway Work Zones.